

RWNA Newsletter

To Preserve and Enhance our Neighborhood

Summer 2011

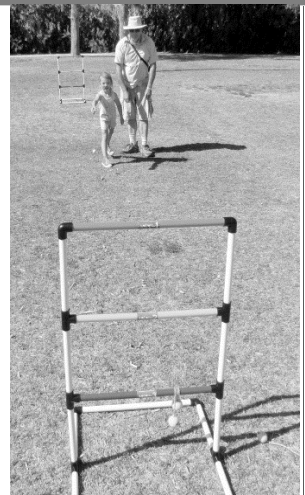
Board Meetings: 1st Thursday of the Month at 7 PM
Location: Rosemont Community Church, 5005 E. Winsett
Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, & Dec 1, 2011
Everyone is welcome.



ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK—A GREAT TRADITION!



Sunday, April 17th was a warm Arizona spring day—perfect for the Rosemont West Annual Picnic at Hoffman Park. Over 150 neighbors enjoyed live music under the trees, hot dogs, eegees, delicious potluck dishes, petting chickens, climbing on the play structure, games and visiting with each other. Information tables



were available to sign up to be a Neighborhood Association member (only \$5 per year) and to get involved with our Neighborhood Watch program and our Graffiti Abatement efforts.

Special thanks to the following neighbors: Michele Lanan and her fellow musicians M.J. Epps, Jerry Weinert and Jim McConnell for their delightful bluegrass music; Cathy Garcia-Wittwer and Janie Perez from Washington Federal Savings for donating and serving the yummy eegees; Pat and Arlene Heimann for setting up the sound system and providing background music; Christine Lamanna for providing chicken wrangling service; and the Rosemont West Board members for planning and organizing the picnic, grilling those hot dogs, setting up and cleaning up.



And a big thank you to everyone who brought the delicious potluck items and took the time to continue our friendly neighborhood tradition—it's what makes Rosemont West a great place to live!



Annual General Meeting Jan. 26, 2012 6:30 PM Rosemont Community Church

Keep RWNA Beautiful - Help Bust Graffiti ~ by Jane Strohm



Some graffiti has historical or political meaning, some is genuine artistic expression. The graffiti that pervades in our city is predominantly tagging (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graffiti>) - vandalizing a surface with letters or a name using marker or paint. It appears to be a rite of passage, a cry for attention or notoriety, or claiming territory. It may or may not be gang-related. It abounds in all parts of Tucson (including Sam Hughes) and beyond (upscale neighborhoods in Oceanside, CA). Marking on walls dates back to the cave paintings, except this paint job isn't telling a very good story.

I recently renovated a home in RWNA and have lived here since December 2010. Before selecting my new home, I noted little graffiti and a strong sense of community as I walked the streets and introduced myself to neighbors. I've been very happy living in RWNA and am hopefully contributing to strengthening the existing community by rallying more people to help with graffiti removal. The relative low persistence of graffiti in this neighborhood is due almost entirely to the volunteer efforts of long-time resident, Steve Campbell. He works nearly everyday to help keep RWNA beautiful. Thank him the next time you see him, or better yet, get involved in busting graffiti.

Across the nation, people have come together with tips and tricks for battling graffiti and maintaining beautiful, healthy neighborhoods. The best tactic is quick removal, because like the clutter on our counters and desks, like attracts like. The longer graffiti is allowed, ignored, and tolerated, the more likely we see more, bigger, harder to remove tags, and subsequently crime escalates. Don't assume someone else will report it or clean, take action!

Before I moved in, I cleaned up graffiti on my street. Not long after I moved in, I found myself cleaning the same signs of the same repeated tag and I got frustrated. I couldn't keep up. We're all busy, but if each person takes on a small nook of the neighborhood (even if it's just your property or one sign or wall), the load is distributed and Steve can have some weekends off! He has noted that while this past winter had one of the highest rates of tagging, this summer has had one of the lowest. I've noted that we're still getting tags, but they are fewer and often from new "names" that don't repeat after removal. Hopefully, the reduced tagging is related to our efforts which sends the message, "we care about our neighborhood!"

At the April picnic we launched Graffiti Busters and the "adopt-a-sign" model that we hope has a way for everyone to contribute to keeping RWNA graffiti-free. Adopting means watching a sign or wall and immediately reporting it (see below) or cleaning it as soon as possible. (Thank you to those who already signed up to take-on a piece of RWNA!) The more people we have taking action, the greater our success. For more details visit the RWNA Graffiti Busters website: <http://bit.ly/rwnagb>

Here are some ways to help out:

- **Report It! to the City - ASAP!**
 - ⇒ Phone Number 791-2489
 - ⇒ online: <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/graffiti/report>
 - ⇒ email: graffiti@tucson.gov
 - ⇒ phone app: search "myTucson" or "myPimaCounty"
- Give RWNA Graffiti Busters permission ([Forms](#)) to paint your property, and report it to us: rwnagb@gmail.com
- Get your neighbors (especially on alleys) to sign a permission form so we can clean it.
- **Adoption:** Adopt a "sign" or section of RWNA
- Remove it ([Removal Tips](#)) or Report It!
- Check & notify your neighbors so they can Report It! or Remove It!
- Donate \$ to RWNA GB. - Contact a RWNA Board Member
- Purchase removal supplies for RWNA GB.
- Solicit donations of removal supplies.
- Write/call City council members.
- Apply for a grant.
- Organize a fund raiser.
- Coordinate a service project with neighborhood schools/businesses/clubs.
- Purchase an RWNA Graffiti Busters t-shirt (proceeds go towards graffiti removal supplies)
- The more people that report it, the better. It doesn't have to be your property or your street - take action!
- If you own your property, but can't clean it, give us permission and contact us - we'll help clean it up (often faster than the City).
- Stay tuned for an upcoming graffiti removal workshop.

WATER HARVESTING & BACKYARD GARDENING

FIGS, WATER AND WILDLIFE ~ by Jim Marx

Our front yard Mission Fig tree measures 27 feet long and 20 feet wide and 8 feet tall. We've picked 2000 + figs to date and they just keep coming. We dehydrate them, freeze them, make jam, eat them fresh, give many away, and share them with the birds. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that the wildlife is sharing the figs with us. Finches, curve-billed thrashers, mockingbirds, white-winged doves, and sparrows are the most common, while cactus wrens, Gila woodpeckers, great-tailed grackles and warblers of various types visit occasionally. The fig beetles – those green, iridescent flying blind hulks that seem to run into everything - also manage to mush their way into the fig feast. So do our yard's variety of lizards and ants. Our community of yard life thrives at the "table" the fig tree sets. And we are grateful to have a place at the "table" as well.



The fig tree, unlike the saguaro, is not native to the Sonoran Desert, yet it thrives here. It does take a fair amount of water but the abundance of fruit for such a variety of "eaters" is worth it to us. Most of the watering of the fig and other fruit trees in our yard is done via a drip irrigation system. However, we're able to reduce city water use because we "harvest" rain during this monsoon time and the winter rainy season and store it in the 1100 gallon tank in our back yard. We capture and use as much of that water as

we can for patio plants, yard and garden irrigation. Gutters on our house feed into downspouts that send the water through underground pipes to the tank which fills from the bottom up. A one inch rain cascading from the thousand square foot roof sends approximately 600 gallons of water into the tank. When full, the overflow pipe is set up to send water along a row of hop seed bushes, birds of paradise, cactus and small vegetable gardens in the yard. It's not a perfect arrangement, but a good start in managing and using water as the precious resource that it is. The fig tree certainly benefits and we, including our wild yard friends, are now enjoying its fruit in abundance.

For more information or to stop by, eat some figs and swap stories, give us a call at 647-2880.



City of Tucson Info Line

792-2489 (all city departments)

INFO AND REFERRAL: 881-1794

(24/7 problem solving and referral)

TUCSON POLICE DEPT: 791-4444

(non-emergencies: junked cars, dumping, etc)

PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER:

243-5900

GRAFFITI REMOVAL:

792-CITY (2489)

CITY TRANSPORTATION: 791-3154

(signs, lights, potholes, washes, sight obstructions)

WARD 6 OFFICE: 791-4601

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES: 791-4605

(preservation, protection, neighbor rights)

PIMA COUNCIL ON AGING: 790-7262

SUNTRAN: 792-9222

TUSD SECURITY: 584-7676

VOLUNTEER CENTER: 881-3300

EASTSIDE

NEIGHBORS VOLUNTEERS 245-4729

CRIME IN PROGRESS

911

Newsletter Contact:

Jim Marx—647-2880



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TREASURER'S YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT

<u>Month</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>End Balance</u>
<u>Dec 2010</u>			\$1466.30
<u>January 1, 2011</u>	\$220.00 – Dues		\$1686.35
		+\$220.00	
		-\$0.00	
<u>February 2011</u>	\$35.00 – Dues	\$10.93 – Annual Meeting	
		\$16.33 – Giffords Cards	\$1619.94
		\$74.15 – Giffords staff lunch	
		+35.00	
		-101.91	
<u>March 2011</u>	\$30.00 – Dues	\$250.00 – Donation to Rosemont Community Church for facilities use	\$1549.94
		+\$180.00	
		-\$250.00	
<u>April 2011</u>	\$320.00 – Dues	\$187.74 – Rental tables and chairs for picnic	\$1682.20
		+\$320.00	
		-\$187.74	
	\$85.00 – Dues	\$60.34- Graffiti paint	
<u>May 2011</u>	\$50.00 – Newsletter Ad	\$117.08 – Annual picnic	\$1434.31
		\$155.47- Newsletter	
		+\$135.00	
		-\$382.89	
<u>June 1, 2011</u>	\$25.00 – Dues	\$111.03 – Graffiti Paint	<u>July 1, 2011</u>
	\$200.00 – Graffiti Donation		\$1548.28
		+\$225.00	
		-\$111.03	

THANKS TO DAVID HALL

Thanks to David Hall, owner of Catalina Realty, for a very generous donation to the RWNA graffiti abatement fund as well as extra paint supplies. If you would like to donate money or paint supplies to help the graffiti volunteers in our neighborhood, please contact Mary Ann Johnson at 881-8372.